

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Angola Monthly Briefing November 2021

Angola Summary 18 November 2021

President João Lourenço (2017-present) delivers his State of the Nation Address at the opening of the Angolan parliamentary year, proffering a slightly more positive view of the economy in 2022 as a result of increasing oil prices. The 2022 draft state budget, proposed to be set at 18.7 billion kwanzas (\$31.2m), is benefiting from the increase in oil prices and is based on a conservative oil price of \$59 per barrel against the \$39 per barrel of the 2021 State Budget. Angola's crude oil production is set to reach 1.3 million barrels per day, according to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Bids for state-owned oil company Sonangol's stake in eight oil blocks close, with 19 junior oil companies bidding for the shares. President Lourenço delivers a speech at the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow (United Kingdom), setting out Angola's policies and reiterating its commitment to climate action and the adoption of a low-carbon development model. Angola has to deal with climate change both as a producer of fossil fuels and as a country affected by climate change and major environmental issues. Angola's third Covid-19 wave is receding from the peak in early October. All citizens over 18 years old must now present a paper or digital certificate of vaccination against Covid-19 to have access to work in public buildings and private ones such as restaurants. The new measure is part of November's renewal of the Presidential Decree on the State of Public Disaster.

Oil price and production surplus to fund 2022 state budget increases

President **João Lourenço** (2017-present), delivering his **State of the Nation Address** at the opening of the **Angolan** parliamentary year on 15 October, proffered a slightly more positive view of the economy in 2022 as a result of increasing oil prices.¹ The government expects real growth of 1.6% for the oil sector, including gas, while for the non-oil sector the projections point to an increase of around 3.1% by 2022,² with annual oil and gas production reaching 553.2 million barrels.³ Lourenço said:

"Oil revenue surplus to be collected this year (2021) will be earmarked for the implementation of the 2021 budget's Public Investment Programme projects that lack other funding sources, and for imminently increasing the number of health workers."⁴

The 2022 draft state budget, proposed to be set at 18.7 billion kwanzas (\$31.2m), is benefiting from the increase in oil prices, based on a conservative oil price of \$59 per barrel,⁵ in view of continuing uncertainty in the oil sector, against the \$39 per barrel oil price of the 2021 State Budget.⁶ Accelerating the production of non-associated natural gas and using associated gas production to supply Angola liquefied natural gas (LNG) will also bolster Angola's revenues.⁷

Finance minister **Vera Daves** presented the proposed budget on 8 November. Some key points are:

- A budget of 827.4 billion kwanzas (\$1.4 billion) for structural investments in 2022, representing an increase of 349.9 billion kwanzas (\$582.3m) compared to 2021;

¹ Angop, 15 Oct 2021

² Angop, 5 Nov 2021

³ Angop, 5 Nov 2021

⁴ Angop, 15 Oct 2021

⁵ Angop, 9 Nov 2021

⁶ Angop, 5 Nov 2021

⁷ Angop, 5 Nov 2021

- The health sector budget is set at 35.9 billion kwanzas (\$58.2m);
- The transport sector will receive investment of 330.8 billion kwanzas (\$548.6m);
- Public sector road building has a budget of about 108.1 million kwanzas (\$197.9m);
- The energy sector gets investment of around 185.3 billion kwanzas (\$308.2m) and the water sector, 155.8 billion kwanzas (\$259.1m).⁸

A decision by the **Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and non-OPEC countries to increase oil production by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd), starting in December, has also bolstered Angola's budget.⁹ Angola's crude oil production is set to reach 1.3 million barrels per day, according to OPEC.¹⁰ Angola is the third largest oil producer in **Africa**, but is currently experiencing a decline, with production standing at around 1.1 million barrels per day, an amount that could increase if new marginal oil fields come into operation.¹¹

Even with a production increase in sight, considerable uncertainty over oil prices is confirmed by the divergence of opinions on the trajectory of the oil price in the international market for 2022. The **United States (US) Energy Information Administration (EIA-US)** forecast in October an average price per barrel in 2022 of \$71.91; US-based financial services company **Goldman Sachs** forecasts \$80, and **United Kingdom (UK)-based Barclay's Bank** \$77.¹² The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** both took a highly cautious approach, citing \$65 and \$63.04 per barrel respectively.¹³

With an assumed price of \$59 per barrel, Angola is setting a highly cautious benchmark for its 2022 budget. Even without the price rises, Angola is now authorised to produce more oil. OPEC is reviving oil supplies halted during the pandemic but added only 140,000 barrels a day in October because of the difficulties faced by both **Nigeria** and Angola with regard to output losses, according to a **Bloomberg** survey based on ship tracking data.¹⁴ The under-performance may increase the impatience expressed by US President **Joseph Biden** (2021-present) and other world leaders, who have been pressing OPEC and its allies to alleviate surging fuel prices by increasing production.¹⁵

Bids for eight Sonangol oil blocks received

Bids for state-owned oil company **Sonangol's** stake in eight oil blocks, 3/05, 4/05, 5/06, 27 which it operates, and in blocks 15/06, 18, 23 and 31, closed last month.¹⁶ Sonangol made an operating loss of 437 billion kwanza (\$732m) in 2020 and is selling the blocks to balance its accounts, reduce costs and obtain liquidity.¹⁷ The sale is also intended to boost Angola's oil production through smaller oil companies, under the new OPEC dispensation.¹⁸

Sonangol is offering 15-20% stakes in blocks 3/05 and 4/05, and 30-65% in block 5/06. The stake offered in blocks 15/06 and 31 is less than 10% and the block 18 share offered is even smaller, at less than 8.3%. In blocks 23 and 27, a major stake of 30-70%. is offered.¹⁹ **Italy**-headquartered oil company **Eni** has a major stake in block 15/06, including the **Cuica** discovery, which holds 200-250 million barrels. **China's** international Angolan arm, **Sonangol Sinopec International (SSI 15)**, which already holds a 26.32% stake in block 15/06, wants to increase its stake and is the only oil major

⁸ Angop, 9 Nov 2021

⁹ Angop, 5 Nov 2021

¹⁰ Angop, 5 Nov 2021

¹¹ Angop, 5 Nov 2021

¹² Angop, 5 Nov 2021

¹³ Angop, 5 Nov 2021

¹⁴ New Era, 2 Nov 2021

¹⁵ New Era, 2 Nov 2021

¹⁶ Expansao, 16 Oct 2021

¹⁷ Expansao, 16 Oct 2021

¹⁸ New Era, 2 Nov 2021

¹⁹ Energy Voice, 15 Jun 2021

bidding for shares.²⁰ SSI15 is a partner with UK-based **British Petroleum** in drilling the 30,000-bpd **Platina** project, which holds 44.1 million barrels. Sonangol is divesting its very small stake of 8.3%.²¹

Angolan oil company, **Somoil SA**, owned by oil magnates **Manuel Vicente**, **Syanga Abílio**, **Desidério Costa** and other ex-Sonangol luminaries, has bid for five blocks. Angolan businessman **António Mosquito**'s oil company, **Falcon Oil SA**, is interested in consolidating Falcon's investments in oil and has bid for four blocks. Two other Angolan oil companies are known to have bid for blocks.²² Sonangol has received bids for stakes in the eight oil blocks from 19 junior oil companies.²³ Most are applying as part of a consortium and are registered and based in the UK, **Canada**, **Australia** or **Mauritius**.²⁴

The due diligence on the bids was carried out by **Trace International** in early November. Sonangol will negotiate purchase contracts with the bidders who best meet the assessment criteria.²⁵

Lourenço attends COP26

President João Lourenço attended **the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)** in **Glasgow (UK)**, where he delivered a speech reiterating Angola's will and determination to remain committed to climate action and the adoption of a low-carbon development model and setting out Angola's environmental policies.²⁶ Angola is in a complex position in relation to climate change and environmental issues, both as a producer of fossil fuels and as a country affected by climate change and major environmental problems. The majority of Angola's income is from extractive industries, which are potentially and actually polluting. Western nations are pushing for increased oil supply, while acknowledging the need to reduce dependence on, and production of, hydrocarbons to avert further global warming.

Angola's national energy matrix currently incorporates 62% of non-polluting energy sources, aiming to reach 70% in 2025.²⁷ Lourenço noted that Angola favours the production and consumption of clean energy from existing hydroelectric dams and others to be built, as well as from renewable energy sources, with emphasis on photovoltaic energy production projects with solar parks that will reduce the consumption of fossil fuels in the production of electrical energy. Angola has recently created a **National Strategy for Climate Change 2021-2035**, aiming to achieve the goals set out in the **Paris Agreement**, and approved a new environmental legislative package.²⁸

Lourenço dismissed culture, tourism and environment minister **Jomo Francisco Isabel de Carvalho Fortunato** just four days before the conference, reportedly for failing to produce a working document on climate issues facing Angola for the president to take to COP26.²⁹ Lourenço appointed academic **Filipe Zau** in his stead. Zau's role is to focus on the preservation and conservation of species, fauna and flora and environmental education.³⁰

Angola is experiencing major internal environmental problems. The environmental impact of diamond mining was highlighted when a slimes dam at the major **Catoca** diamond mine in **Luanda Sul** collapsed in July (*see ARC Briefing Angola August 2021*). A breakdown in the drainage system in the tailings basin of the **Sociedade Mineira de Catoca** (Catoca mining company) on or about 27 July caused major environmental damage to the **Lova River**, in **Lunda Sul** province, part of the **Kasai River** system that feeds into the **Congo River**.³¹ The pollution initially covered approximately 100

²⁰ Energy Voice, 15 Jun 2021

²¹ Energy Voice, 15 Jun 2021

²² Expansao, 16 Oct 2021

²³ Africa Oil Gas Report, 10 Oct 2021

²⁴ Expansao, 16 Oct 2021

²⁵ Africa Oil Gas Report, 10 Oct 2021

²⁶ Angop, 3 Nov 2021

²⁷ Angop, 3 Nov 2021

²⁸ Angop, 3 Nov 2021

²⁹ Publico, 4 Nov 2021

³⁰ Angop, 3 Nov 2021

³¹ Lusa, 5 Aug 2021

kilometres of the Lova River.³² By 20 August, researchers at **Kinshasa University (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (DRC)** said a leak of heavy metals from a mine in northern Angola was causing an *"unprecedented environmental catastrophe"*. Catoca reported in late October that an independent investigation showed that only mud and sand were released.³³

European Union-funded satellite monitoring service **Sentinel Vision**, whose analysis of satellite monitoring identified the leak, also identified river pollution from at least six other Angolan diamond mines in the same river systems, which predated the Catoca leak but had a more local effect.³⁴ The environmental effects of diamond mining in Angola, including river water pollution affecting communities that use the water for drinking and washing, and loss of topsoil leading to desertification, are not well controlled or monitored in Angola.

This is less the case with the oil industry, although the industry rather than government developed the environmental monitoring and protection strategies. The Angolan oil and gas industry workgroup **Associação das Companhias de Exploração e Produção de Angola (ACEPA)** collaborated in the development and completion of oil spill response initiatives, developing a comprehensive programme of oil spill response planning by 2015.³⁵

There have been few recorded oil spills in Angola. The most recent was in October 2020 when **France**-based oil company **Total** took responsibility for a 35-cubic metre crude oil spill that occurred some 150 km off the coast of **Soyo (Zaire Province)** during a crude oil loading operation. Total initiated containment and clean-up of the spill, which reached local villages and affected the water supply, as well having potentially damaging effects on the marine ecosystem.³⁶

The effects of climate change and global warming can be seen in the major drought in the south of the country. According to the UN **World Food Programme (WFP)**, more than 1.3 million people in the three south-western provinces of **Cunene, Huila** and **Namibe** are facing severe hunger in the worst drought in 40 years.³⁷ WFP head of office in Angola **Michele Mussoni** said the organisation had registered migration of families to other provinces and neighbouring **Namibia** in search of water and grazing for cattle in southern Angola:

"These areas have been suffering from the devastating effects of climate change and the current drought puts the food security and nutrition of vulnerable people under threat."

The WFP expects 1.58 million people to be affected between October 2021 and March 2022, the lean season when traditionally food stocks run low. The last drought in Cunene Province lasted for most of 2019. The affected provinces border Namibia and **Botswana**.

Some issues are being mitigated but producing actual change is likely to be a long process. Angola has taken steps to implement some environmental protection measures. In October, Angola signed an agreement with the US-headquartered **International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)** for the conservation of the **Luengue-Luiana** and **Mavinga** parks, for the protection of animal and plant wildlife and the development of sustainable international tourism.³⁸ Angola also signed the **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance - Ramsar Convention** on 9 October to protect and replant Angola's major coastal mangrove swamps.³⁹

³² Lusa, 5 Aug 2021

³³ IDEX online, 24 Oct 2021

³⁴ Event 919 SVP Kasai River Pollution 12 Aug 2021

³⁵ International Oil Spill Conference Proceedings (2017)

³⁶ Angop, 2 Nov 2020

³⁷ World Food Programme, 24 Sep 2021

³⁸ Angop, 3 Nov 2021

³⁹ Angop, 11 Nov 2021

Angola is not a member of **African Risk Capacity**, a specialised agency of the **African Union** established to help **African** governments improve their capacities to better plan, prepare, and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters.⁴⁰

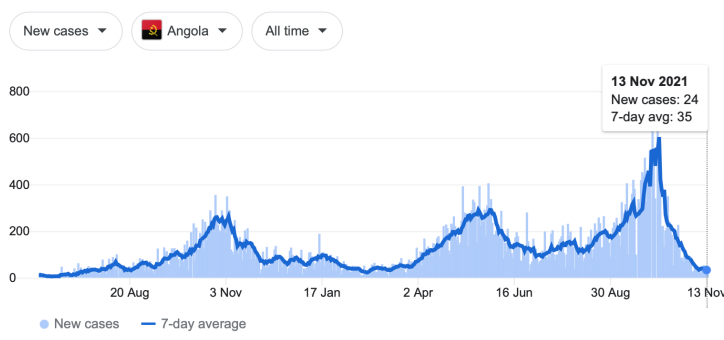
Covid-19 vaccination certificates now mandatory for working adult population

Angola's third **Covid-19** wave is receding from the peak in early October, according to data presented to US-based **Johns Hopkins University (JHU)**. At the time of writing, Angola had experienced 64,913 cases in its population of roughly 34 million, with 1,727 Covid-19-related deaths and 61,687 recoveries.

Statistics

New cases and deaths

From [JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data](#) · Last updated: 2 days ago



days before".⁴²

The obligation applies only to owners and workers. It is not mandatory for customers to present the certificate in commercial establishments. The same is true of access to public services, public and similar companies, where users cannot be required to have the certificate, only workers and service providers.⁴³ In the event of non-compliance, service providers will be penalised, in an amount ranging from 100,000 to 300,000 kwanzas. (\$168-\$503).⁴⁴

Angola's borders remain closed. Tourist visas remain suspended, and foreign citizens can only enter the territory if they hold an investment visa, a temporary residence visa, have a valid work visa or have been resident in the country.⁴⁵ Entry from **India**, even for Angola nationals and transit passengers, remains banned.⁴⁶

Angola remains focused on vaccination and has finalised its target of vaccinating 60% of the population.⁴⁷ About 6.2 million people have been vaccinated to date. Canada has donated 456,000 doses of the UK-**Swedish** produced **AstraZeneca** vaccine.⁴⁸ Health minister **Silvia Lutucuta** said Angola expects to receive an additional 7 million doses of the China-produced **Sinopharm** vaccine and, gradually, a batch of more than five million doses of the US-manufactured single-dose **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine.⁴⁹ Although 175 vaccination posts have been set up, there are still

⁴⁰ Arc.int accessed 14 Nov 2021

⁴¹ Angop, 1 Nov 2021

⁴² Expansao, 5 Nov 2021

⁴³ Expansao, 5 Nov 2021

⁴⁴ Angop, 1 Nov 2021

⁴⁵ Expansao, 5 Nov 2021

⁴⁶ Angop, 1 Nov 2021

⁴⁷ Angop, 25 Oct 2021

⁴⁸ Angop, 2 Nov 2021

⁴⁹ Angop, 2 Nov 2021

problems with take up, as minister of state for the social sector **Carolina Cerqueira** reiterated the need for the eligible population to be vaccinated.⁵⁰

Planner

- 8 Sep 2021 – 7 Dec 2021 **Lobito (Angola)** Public tender for 30-year contract for management and maintenance of the **Lobito Corridor** railroad infrastructure launched; bidders must have technical and financial capacity and extensive experience in operating this type of infrastructure;
- 15-21 Nov 2021 **Durban (South Africa)** Angolan businesses and Angola's export promotion agency, **Agência de Promoção de Exportações e Investimentos Privados (AIPEX)**, will participate in the 2nd **Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2021)** under the theme "*Transforming Africa*";
- 17 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** Final votes on the amendments to the law on general elections and on the organising and functioning of the **Tribunal Supremo** (Supreme Court) and the **Tribunais de Apelação** (Courts of Appeal) take place;
- 25 Nov - 31 Nov 2021 **Saurimo (Angola)** The 1st **Angolan International Diamond Conference (AIDC)** will take place at the **Saurimo Diamond Development Hub** in eastern **Lunda Sul Province** to promote diamond mining cutting and financing projects;
- 9-11 Dec 2021 **(Angola)** VIII Ordinary Congress of the ruling **MPLA** party will select candidate for president;
- Dec 2021 **(Angola)** Opposition party **UNITA** will hold its XIII Congress to elect the party leader;
- 2021 **London (United Kingdom)** Hearing of **Melbourne Investments v SODIAM** takes place at **London Court of Arbitration**, despite death in October 2020 of shareholder and manager **Sindika Dokolo**;
- 2019-2022 **(Angola)** **Programa de Privatizações (PROPRIV)** (privatisation programme) to manage government divestment of 195 companies;
- Jan 2020-Dec 2021 **Rome (Italy)** Angola serves on **World Food Program (WFP)** Executive Committee;
- 2020-2025 **(Angola)** **World Bank** to provide funding to increase economic diversification for a five-year period;
- 2021 **London (United Kingdom)** Hearing of **UNITEL SA v Unitel International Holdings (UIH)** takes place at **London Court of Arbitration**, to resolve issues of UIH alleged debt of \$400m to **UNITEL**;
- 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** **Jose Filomeno dos Santos** and other defendants appeal sentences in the "*case of \$500 million*", to be heard in the **Supreme Court**;
- 2021 **(Angola)** France's President **Emmanuel Macron** plans state visit to Angola;
- 2021 **(Angola)** First local and municipal elections are in the planning stages but implementation is delayed by **Covid-19** and an election date will be set, probably for 2022;
- 2021 **(Angola)** Six offshore oil blocks and free areas of oil blocks 31 and 32 will be offered for tenders;
- Q4 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** Angola announces the launch of biometric passports will begin in Q4 2021;
- Q4 2021 **(Angola)** **Luanda/Soyo/Cabinda** ferry for passengers and cargo begins operations;

⁵⁰ Angop, 6 Nov 2021

Q4 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angolan Diamond Exchange** to open;

May 2022 **Talatona, Luanda (Angola) Huawei Technology Park** to be completed

Dec 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** becomes chair of the **Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)** during the Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held from 6-9 December 2022.

2022 **(Angola)** National elections;

2022 **(Angola)** Angola to host 10th **African, Caribbean and Pacific Group** summit;

2022 **(Angola)** End date for **Banco Poupança e Crédito's** recovery plan;

2022 **Luanda (Angola) Novo Aeroporto Internacional de Luanda (NAIL)** (new international airport) expected to open;

2023 **(Angola) Luaxe mine (Lunda Sul)** expected to produce 5.7 million carats of diamonds;

2025 **(Angola)** Three major refineries at **Lobito** with capacity to refine 200,000 barrels/day, **Soyo** (100,000 barrels/day) and **Cabinda** (60,000 barrels/day), are expected to give Angola crude oil refining capacity of 360,000 barrel per day this year, meeting domestic needs and ending fuel imports;

2027 **(Angola)** State-owned oil company **Sonangol's** Strategic Exploration and Production Plan 2020-2027 gives Sonangol 10% of national production by this date, producing 120,000 barrels per day.

Chronology

15 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola) The Nation. Angolan National Diamond Trading Company** expects to raise more than \$20m in its fourth rough diamond auction to be held exclusively online on 15-30 November;

15 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** Angola holds a fourth two-week online rough diamond auction, focussing on six special (large) stones from **Lulo Mine** and several parcels of stones from **Catoca Mine**, valued at about \$20m;

13 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop. Sinohydro Corporation Limitada**, the Angolan arm of the **Chinese** state-owned company, is awarded the tender to build a new airport at **Mbanza Congo**, capital of **Zaire Province**, with a capacity of 600 passengers per day;

11 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** President **João Lourenço** delivers a speech on the 46th anniversary of Angola's independence on the need for investment in the "moralisation" of society and for economic diversification;

9 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** The Angolan Executive says the budget for structural investments in 2022 will be set at 827.4 billion Kwanzas (\$1.4 billion), almost doubling the 2021 figure for such investment;

8 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** President **João Lourenço** recommends that the **Assembleia Nacional** (Parliament) impose a ban on offers to voters ahead of the country's electoral campaign, prohibiting inauguration of projects and public works and any offers that could be seen as vote buying scheme during the electoral campaigns, to be included in the draft amendments to the law on general elections;

8 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** President **João Lourenço** makes a two-day state visit to **Cabo Verde** to attend the inauguration of newly elected president **José Maria Neves**;

8 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **World Bank** regional vice-president for **Eastern and Southern Africa, Hafez Ghanem**, arrives in Angola for a three-day visit to discuss the work of the World Bank Group and the partnership with Angola, focused on the agenda of reforms and economic diversification strategies;

5 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA)** (central bank) announces it is constructing a major logistics centre in the **Luanda-Bengo Special Economic Zone** to store and process more than 800 million banknotes;

5 Nov 2021 **Swakopmund (Namibia)** *New Era*. Government of Namibia appeals to the **Angolan** government to consider opening the joint borders during the 21st Session of the **Namibian/Angola Joint Commission on Defence**;

1 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Justice and human rights minister **Francisco Queiroz** announces that a centre for forensic analysis and conservation of bones of the victims of political conflicts will be launched this year, to identify and bury the remains of Angola's civil wars between 1975 and 2002;

1 Nov 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. A meeting of the **Joint Angola-Namibia Defence and Security Commission** begins in **Swakopmund (Namibia)** to agree policies on border control issues including refugees and migration, customs, and questions such as mapping, environment and wildlife;

30 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. State-owned oil company **Sonangol** confirms it has started a debt recovery process against **China Sonangol Group (CS)** for prior loans, and has recovered boats being built in **Spain**;

30 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Angola and **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** sign a Verbal Process and a Trade Agreement, as part of strengthening bilateral cooperation, at the end of the 10th Session of **Joint Bilateral Commission Angola-DRC**, held in DRC capital **Kinshasa**;

25 Oct 2021 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *New Era*. **Angola's** national airline, **TAAG**, resumes **Windhoek-Luanda** route following the lifting of **Covid-19** restrictions on travel between the two countries, in place since 19 March 2020;

24 Oct 2021 **Saurimo (Angola)** *I dex Online*. **Catoca** mine accepts that it accidentally released sand and clay into tributaries of the **River Congo** in July but says independent tests it commissioned on water samples have since shown no evidence of toxic hard metals;

23 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** denies he intends to change the management of state-owned oil company **Sonangol** and the **Agência Nacional de Petróleo, Gás e Biocombustíveis** (national agency of petroleum, gas and biofuels);

22 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **South African** private airline **Airlink** starts passenger and cargo flights between **Johannesburg** and Luanda and promises affordable prices and flexibility to passengers;

22 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The **United States** and Angola plan to increase bilateral cooperation in the areas of economic development and security and implement new projects;

21 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço**, acting president of the **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)**, and **Central African Republic (CAR)** president **Faustin Archange Touadéra** meet in Luanda to discuss the ceasefire in CAR which took effect on 15 October;

20 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** dismisses the board of directors of flag carrier airline **TAAG - EP** as part of the implementation of the company's restructuring plan and strategic objectives, since TAAG is no longer wholly state owned;

20 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop.* Government announces it will no longer issue directives to the governing bodies of the **Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA)** (central bank) or any public and private entity, with the coming into force of the new Law (24/21) of the BNA;

20 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop.* Foreign affairs minister **Téte António** reiterates the need to lift the arms embargo imposed on the **Central African Republic (CAR)**, in view of the progress achieved on the ground.

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